

1 **In the Claims:**

2 CLAIMS

3 I claim:

5 1. (Currently Amended) A denture comprising:

7 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel
8 between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the
9 meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being
10 generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

11 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;
12 and

13 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving
14 material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby
15 forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member
16 being deformable when subjected to water having a
17 temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than
18 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the gum receiving [[reline]]
19 material conforming to the configuration of a gum received
20 within the gum-receiving member[[.]] when fitted thereto by
21 an individual user.

23 2. (Original) The denture as described in claim 1, wherein
24 the gum receiving material is a denture reline material.

26 3. (Original) The denture as described in claim 2, wherein
27 the reline material is selected from the group consisting of
28 acrylic reline material and silicone reline material.

30 4. (Currently Amended) The denture as described in claim 3,

1 wherein the gum is a gum of the user. ~~A user of the denture.~~

2
3 5. (Original) The denture as described in claim 4, wherein
4 the denture is an upper denture, and the upper denture does
5 not include a palate.

6
7 6. (Cancelled)

8
9 7. (Currently Amended) A method for fitting a denture in
10 situ in the mouth of an individual, the method comprising
11 the steps of:

12
13 selecting the denture to fit the individual, the
14 denture comprising:

15 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel
16 between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the
17 meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being
18 generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

19 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;
20 and

21 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving
22 material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby
23 forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member
24 being deformable when subjected to a temperature greater
25 than ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212
26 degrees F.);

27
28 preparing the selected denture by heating the selected
29 denture in water having [[to]] a temperature greater than
30 ambient temperature but less than 100 degrees C (212 degrees

1 F);

2
3 positioning the prepared denture within the mouth, the
4 gum receiving member receiving a gum of the individual; and

5
6 fitting the denture by the application of a biting
7 force to the denture[[.]] , which biting force is applied
8 for a time period sufficient for the gum receiving member to
9 conform to the gum, thereby providing a comfortable fit when
10 fitted by the individual.

11
12 8. (Cancelled)

13 9. (Cancelled)

14
15 10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein
16 the time period is between approximately 1 minute and
17 approximately 30 minutes.

18
19 11. (Original) The method as described in claim 9, wherein
20 the heating step comprises immersion of the selected
21 denture in water at a temperature between approximately 38
22 degrees C and approximately 95 degrees C.

23
24 12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11, wherein
25 the heating step comprises immersion of the selected
26 denture in water at a temperature between approximately 45
27 degrees C and approximately 80 degrees C.

28
29 13. (Original) The method as described in claim 11, further
30 comprising the step of fitting a second denture in the

1 mouth, the second denture being fitted in opposition to the
2 first denture.

3
4 14. (Original) The method as described in claim 13, wherein
5 the individual is edentulous.

6
7 15. (Original) The method as described in claim 13, wherein
8 the first denture is selected from the group consisting of a
9 lower denture and an upper denture.

10
11 16. (Cancelled)

12 17. (Cancelled)

13 18. (Cancelled)

14
15 19. (Currently Amended) An upper denture comprising:

16 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel
17 between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the
18 meeting of the inner and the outer walls, and a tooth
19 receiving portion;

20 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;
21 and

22 a layer of gum receiving material, the gum receiving
23 material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby
24 forming a gum receiving member; the gum receiving member
25 being deformable when subjected to water having a
26 temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than
27 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.);

28 the tray being generally U-shaped and lacking a palate.
29
30

1 20. (Currently Amended) A denture for being fitted in situ
2 in the mouth of an individual in need of a denture, the
3 denture comprising:

4
5 a tray including outer walls, inner walls, a channel
6 between the inner walls, a flange, the flange formed by the
7 meeting of the inner and the outer walls, the tray being
8 generally U-shaped, and a tooth receiving portion;

9 a plurality of teeth in the tooth receiving portion;
10 and

11 a layer of denture reline material, the denture reline
12 material selected from the group consisting of acrylic
13 reline material and silicone reline material, the reline
14 material applied to the inner walls and flange, thereby
15 forming a gum receiving member, the gum receiving member
16 being deformable when subjected to water having a
17 temperature greater than ambient temperature but less than
18 100 degrees C (212 degrees F.), the reline material
19 conforming to the configuration of a gum received within the
20 gum-receiving member.